

## Contractor claims that knotweed insurance is inadequate

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Inadequate insurance cover continues to undermine the treatment of non-native plant species on many UK construction sites, Japanese Knotweed Control (JKC) has claimed.

JKC said the scale of the problem was getting worse as greater numbers of "underqualified" and "unregulated" treatment companies continued to enter the market.

The contractor said the professional treatment of plants such as Japanese knotweed was still in its infancy and the insurance industry itself was still coming to terms with its public liability or professional indemnity implications.

Insurance broker Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) has worked with JKC for the past six years to provide cover, specifically written by underwriting group Amlin.

JLT regional managing director Colin Aitchison said: "Many companies have diversified into treating Japanese knotweed from their traditional landscaping and weed control practices but are still operating with the same standard cover.

"If there's any negligent or inadequate treatment work on, for example, a construction site, it can have very serious implications, potentially leading to subsidence or lasting damage to a property.

"It's of continuing concern that many other treatment companies are overlooking this (the importance of specific cover).

"It leaves these companies, and more importantly their customers, with inadequate insurance policies and serious liabilities if treatment programmes go wrong."